

VIAL, H. et al.  
Appl. No. 10/031,486  
February 5, 2004

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-28 are pending.

Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to obviate the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 10 and 14-28. Entry of the above and allowance of the present application are requested.

The Examiner's indication that claims 3, 6, 9, 11, 12 and 13 contain allowable subject matter (see, page 2 of Paper No. 13) is acknowledged, with appreciation. The above amendments are believed to place the entire application in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if anything further is required in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



B. J. Sadoff  
Reg. No. 36,663

BJS  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100